

New York Life Insurance Company Building
Sixth and Minnesota Streets
St. Paul
Ramsey County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-54

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Minnesota		COUNTY Ramsey County	TOWN OR VICINITY St. Paul
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) New York Life Insurance Company Building			HABS NO. MN-54
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Sixth and Minnesota Streets			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1887-1889		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Babb, Cook & Willard	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the most impressive and costliest of multi-story commercial structures built in St. Paul in the late nineteenth century. The sculpted eagle above the entrance is very like that done for the same company by Augustus St. Gaudens for the New York Life Building, Kansas City, MO, 1887-90.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Flemish Renaissance Revival			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Two-story foundation in masonry, five stories of red brick, heavily quoined in granite, an intermediate story, two top floors treated as a mansard roof with modified dormer windows.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Superstructure divided into two unequal masses flanking a narrow court.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Entrance of red sandstone with bas reliefs of classical arabesques, lion head ornaments across the cornice over third story, ornate terracotta frames on upper windows and stepped gables on the main facade.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Main entrance hall of marble, cherry woodwork throughout the building, mosaic floors in main entrance hall and corridors (the main hall remodeled in colored marble and terrazzo in the late 1890's).			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES In the late 1890's an additional bay was erected on the south side of the building, the interior was remodeled (date unknown) with colored marbles, lowered ceiling and terrazzo floors			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Not known			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Original tenants primarily lawyers, had magnificent law library in 1897. The design was given to Cass Gilbert in an article in the <u>St. Paul Pioneer Press</u> (Jan-Feb. 1891); Gilbert demanded a retraction which was printed shortly afterward (the implication of his demand being that he didn't want to be associated with the design).			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Koeper, H.F. <u>Historic St. Paul Buildings</u> . St. Paul City Planning Board: 1964, p. 35. Pioneer Press Company. <u>St. Paul, History and Progress</u> , Principle Men and Institutions. St. Paul, MN: 1897, pp. 73-74. Schuyler, Montgomery. <u>American Architecture & Other Writings</u> . Harvard U. press, 1961, pp. 315-18.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS Architectural Historian			DATE June 1983